

REMARKS

In the specification, a paragraph was added claiming priority to International Patent Application No. PCT/EP2003/050969, filed December 9, 2003, European Patent Application No. 02102772.7, filed December 16, 2002, and US 60/433,676, filed December 16, 2002.

Claims 1-11 are canceled. New claims 12-21 are added and pending. New claims 12-21 correspond to claims filed in the Response of July 21, 2004 to the Written Opinion issued in Parent Application PCT/EP03/050969; however, these claims have been further modified to remove all multiple dependencies and conform to U.S. practice.

No new matter has been entered by these amendments.

Applicants respectfully request the issuance of a timely Notice of Allowance in the case.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ralph J. Mancini', is written over a large, horizontal oval shape.

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